

REMARKS

Applicant submits the following claim amendments prior to examination on the merits for consideration by the Examiner. The amendments cancel the existing claims 1-23, and add new claims 24-57. New claims 24-57 are substantially similar to (now cancelled) claims 1-23, but are written to ensure that the language of the claims comports with U.S. practice. No new matter has been added.

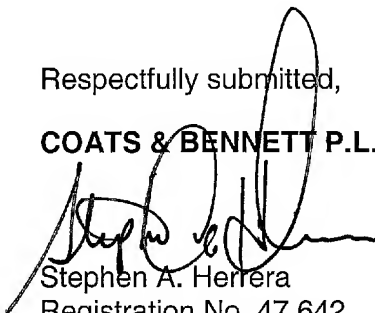
Applicants also have amended the specification, without adding new matter, to correct some minor typographical errors and to ensure clarity.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the amendments prior to examination on the merits, and issue a notice of allowance for all pending claims.

August 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

COATS & BENNETT P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen A. Herrera', is written over the printed name and firm information.

Stephen A. Herrera

Registration No. 47,642

Telephone: (919) 854-1844